

## HOMELESS OFFENDERS ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

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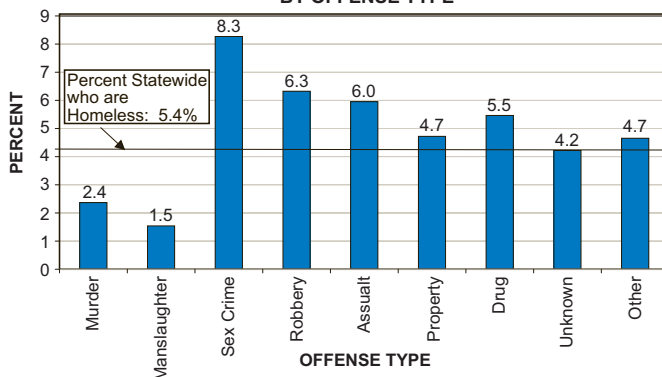
Research shows that a lack of stable housing is linked to a greater risk of re-offending. Housing instability, particularly with sex offenders, has been a hot topic in the media. But, there are a number of definitional issues surrounding "homelessness" that make it difficult to determine how big the problem is for the Washington State Department of Corrections. Currently, homeless offenders on community supervision are captured in the Offender Based Tracking System. The very definition of homeless, however, may be different for each region, each field office, and each Community Corrections Officer. One of the definitional issues is whether or not people living in shelters are considered homeless. A second issue is how long an offender must experience homelessness in order to be considered homeless. These are definitional issues that not only the Department faces, but the United States Census Bureau also faced when trying to count the transitional/homeless population in the 2000 census (see publication of the month in right column).

According to the U.S. Census, in 2000 there were 170,706 homeless people living in the United States. Leading states were New York with 18.7 percent of the total homeless population followed by California with 16.2 percent. In Washington State there were 5,387 people in emergency and transitional shelters. This is approximately 3.2 percent of the total homeless population of the United States. The U.S. Census Bureau cautions that this population is a one-night inventory. It provides only a "snap shot" of information as opposed to shelter use over time.

Of the total community supervision population in Washington State, as of July 31, 2004, 5.4 percent or 2,847 offenders were homeless, 72.8 percent were not (38,268), and data were unknown for 21.8 percent of the population (11,443). By comparing the Department's data to U.S. Census data, it appears that a large proportion of the homeless is on community supervision.

The West Central region, which includes King and Pierce counties, had the highest proportion of homeless offenders at 7.5 percent of their total population. West Central accounted for 60 percent of the total homeless population.

**PERCENT OF TOTAL FIELD POPULATION WHO ARE HOMELESS  
BY OFFENSE TYPE**



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION..

### PUBLICATION OF THE MONTH

U.S. Census Bureau. "Emergency and Transitional Shelter Population: 2000." October 2001. <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/censr01-2.pdf>

### WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

For more information on homelessness in Washington State, visit the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless web site at: <http://www.endhomelessnesswa.org>

### DEFINITION OF THE MONTH

The U.S. Census Bureau used the following definition when trying to count people without conventional housing: "...the population who may be missed in the traditional enumeration of housing units and group quarters" (pg. 1).

### DOC MONTHLY STATISTICS AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2004

#### CONFINEMENT POPULATION

Total Confinement	17,189
Work Release	16,042
Out of State Rented Beds	590
	557

#### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS POPULATION

ACTIVE SUPERVISION	29,472
RMA	7,962
RMB	6,810
RMC	2,501
RMD	10,622
Unclassified	1,577
MONETARY	868
INACTIVE STATUS	16,305

### ESCAPES FROM SECURITY LEVELS 2-5, FOR FY05

	Date	Type	Return
Coyote Ridge CC	07/14/04	Facility	07/15/04
Olympic CC	08/13/04	Facility	-----
WCCW	11/04/04	Work Crew	11/04/04

### TO CONTACT PLANNING AND RESEARCH

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Webpages, under Budget and Research, on the DOCNET homepage

For the total field population, 77 percent went on to supervision from jail and the remaining 23 percent went on to supervision from prison. For the homeless population, 72 percent went on to supervision from jail compared to 28 percent who went on to supervision from prison.

When looking at crime category for offenders on supervision, sex offenders had the highest percentage who were homeless at 8.3 percent of all sex offenders (see chart).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 - HOMELESS OFFENDERS



## RECENTLY PUBLISHED POLICY DIRECTIVES

BY THE POLICY OFFICE

Following is a list of recently published Policy Directives and a brief explanation of why each one was developed/updated. Refer to the DOC Intranet, Policy Section or a Policy Directive Manual to review these documents.

### **DOC 300.380 Classification**

DOC 300.380 Classification effective 5/8/02 has been updated to provide information related to when psychological evaluations are required for offenders, and to update the Document Search Procedure attachment.

### **DOC 350.300 Mutual Agreement Program**

DOC 350.300 Mutual Agreement Program effective 9/1/92 has been updated into current Policy Directive format.

### **DOC 400.200 Post Orders**

DOC 400.200 Post Orders effective 9/6/99 has been updated to meet current Department expectations.

### **DOC 400.410 Custody Staff Assignments to Specialized Units**

DOC 400.410 Custody Staff Assignment to Segregation, Intensive Management Units, Mental Health Units, and/or Youthful Offender Programs effective 6/12/00 has been updated to meet current Department expectations. Please note the title change.

### **DOC 610.300 Health Care for Work Release Offenders**

DOC 610.300 Health Care for Work Release Offenders effective 5/20/03 has been updated to meet ACA Standards and add a new form.

### **DOC 610.650 Outpatient Services**

DOC 610.650 Outpatient Services effective 12/6/99 has been updated to meet current Department expectations.

### **DOC 670.010 Immunizations and Vaccines for Offenders**

DOC 670.010 Immunizations/Vaccines for Offenders effective 11/12/01 has been updated to meet current Department expectations.

### **DOC 800.410 Employee Support – Death or Life-Threatening Event**

This is a new Policy Directive to provide information to employees and their families regarding Department-provided services and assistance in the case of death or life-threatening events.

### **DOC 890.020 Confined Space Entry**

DOC 890.020 Confined Space Entry effective 10/24/97 has been updated into current Policy Directive format.

### **DOC 890.200 Employee Occupational Health Records**

DOC 890.200 Employee Occupational Health Records effective 5/15/96 has been updated into current Policy Directive format to meet current Department expectations.



### **WHAT POLICY INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTRANET?**

All current DOC Policy Directives are available on the DOC Intranet, Policy Section.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the DOC Intranet Policy Section please contact the Policy Office. You can email Marjorie Owens at [mowens@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:mowens@doc1.wa.gov) or Sybil Marsh at [scmarsh@doc1.wa.gov](mailto:scmarsh@doc1.wa.gov).



## HOMELESS OFFENDERS

Forty-three percent of the homeless offenders on active supervision were classified as RMA. This is a disproportionate number of RMA offenders who are homeless considering that 25 percent of the total active field population are classified as RMA.

For more information, a briefing paper called “Homeless Offenders on Supervision” is available on the intranet:

<http://doc-wb3/usercontents/Research/BudgetAndResearch/studies.htm> or contact the Budget, Research & Strategic Planning office at (360) 753-6180 for a hard copy.